

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01  
ACDA-12 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 /124 W  
-----010749 102013Z /63

R 091320Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3539  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NY  
USMISSION SINAI

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E. O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINS ELAB IS  
SUBJ: MESHEL DESIGNATES ARAB MEMBER ON HISTADRUT EXECUTIVE  
BUREAU

REF.: TEL AVIV 7051

1. ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL ARAB-JEWISH LABOR GATHERING  
ON MAY 31 IN NOF GINOSAR (REFTEL), HISTADRUT SECRETARY  
GENERAL MESHEL ANNOUNCED THAT GEORGE SAAD, THE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE HISTADRUT LABOR COUNCIL IN NAZARETH, HAD BEEN SELECTED  
AS THE FIRST ARAB REPRESENTATIVE ON THE 34-MEMBER HISTADRUT  
EXECUTIVE BUREAU. MESHEL FURTHER HINTED THAT ANOTHER ARAB  
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CANDIDATE WOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

2. BECAUSE OF THE DISINTEREST OF MAINSTREAM ISRAELI POLITICAL  
PARTIES, THE ARAB DEPARTMENT OF HISTADRUT HAS REMAINED FOR  
THE ISRAELI ARABS THE MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL GAME IN TOWN,  
OUTSIDE RAKAH. EVEN THOUGH THE NEW POSITION IN THE EXECUTIVE  
BUREAU WILL CARRY LITTLE ACTUAL POWER, IT NEVERTHELESS PROVIDES

PRESTIGE AND PATRONAGE FOR THE INCUMBENT. THEREFORE, THE STRUGGLE FOR THE JOB AGITATED THE ENTIRE ISRAELI ARAB COMMUNITY. THE PRINCIPAL RIVALS FOR THE POSITION WERE SAAD, AN ARAB CHRISTIAN AND VETERAN HISTADRUT OFFICIAL, AND NAOF MASSAWHA, A YOUNG MUSLIM AND HEAD OF THE ARAB YOUTH DEPARTMENT. THE FIGHT ALSO INVOLVED SHIMON PERES, YIGAL ALLON AND THE LABOR PARTY YOUNG GUARD, WHO SUPPORTED MASSAWAH, AND MESHEL, WHO OWED A DEBT TO SAAD FOR HIS PAST STRUGGLE AGAINST RAKAH IN THE NAZARETH DISTRICT.

3. FOLLOWING MESHEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT, HISTADRUT AND LABOR PARTY LEADERS AGREED THAT SAAD, WHO REACHES MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE IN JUNE 1979, WOULD TAKE THE BUREAU SEAT FOR ONE YEAR AND THAT MASSAWAH WOULD THEN SERVE THE REMAINING THREE YEARS OF THE MANDATE.

4. THE HISTADRUT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD INCREASE ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE ARAB SECTOR AND STEP UP ITS EFFORTS TO CREATE MORE LOCAL AND REGIONAL ARAB LABOR COUNCILS, PARTICULARLY IN TAIBE AND IN SEVERAL DRUSE VILLAGES IN THE GALILEE. THESE EFFORTS ARE TO BE COMBINED WITH ORGANIZING MORE YOUTH AND SPORTS CLUBS IN ARAB VILLAGES, AS WELL AS BETTER HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES UNDER HISTADRUT AUSPICES. THIS NEW INITIATIVE IS CLEARLY LINKED TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN NOVEMBER, ON WHICH OCCASION HISTADRUT AND THE LABOR PARTY HOPE TO DISSUADE THE ARAB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELECTORATE FROM SHIFTING ITS SUPPORT FURTHER TOWARD THE RAKAH COMMUNISTS. LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARABS, MEETINGS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TELAV07324  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780243-0758  
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**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 92babf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 TEL AVIV 7051  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2408156  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MESHEL DESIGNATES ARAB MEMBER ON HISTADRUT EXECUTIVE BUREAU  
**TAGS:** PINS, ELAB, IS, (SAAD, GEORGE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
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